Daily Report

East Europe

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FBIS-EEU-95-074 *18 April 1995*

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Rugova Defends Kosovo Peaceful Resistance Policy

AU1604155895 Tirana RILINDJA in Albanian 11 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by I. Berisha: "A Struggle for Freedom Is Taking Place in Kosovo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, April—Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, president of the Republic of Kosova, accompanied by Dr. Bujar Bukoshi, the prime minister, met the Albanian community in London yesterday. Pavli Qesku, Albanian ambassador to Britain; Isa Zymberi, director of the Kosova Information Centre in London; and representatives of political parties and other Albanian community organizations in Britain were also present.

In a short address, President Rugova talked about the current situation in Kosova and the visit to Britain by the delegation of the Republic of Kosova, which he called successful. He then replied to questions from those present about the prospects for a solution to the matter of Kosova, the organization of the diaspora, the policy of active resistance, etc. Asked whether the time has come to think about other ways of striving for freedom when one considers that, according to the questioner, peaceful resistance had led to mass humiliation in Kosova, Dr. Rugova said: "We are struggling every day. A slaughterhouse is not the only form of struggle. There is no mass humiliation in Kosova. We are organized and are operating as a state. It is easy to take to the streets and to head toward suicide, but wisdom lies in eluding a catastrophe. We are waging a very active resistance and we are paying for it with truncheon blows every day. Seventeen people were killed last year alone. A struggle for freedom is being waged in Kosova."

Another member of the public asked whether Rugova agreed with the view that the Kosova Democratic League had failed in its efforts to prevent Kosova from being emptied. President Rugova replied that Kosova was not being emptied. There is emigration. There has been a new wave via Italy. Thanks to our intervention, Italy took steps to stem this tide of emigration. In reply to a question about the possible abolition of the political parties in the diaspora for the sake of the organization of the national movement, Dr. Rugova went on to say: "Let the existing forms of organization operate until new ones are created."

Dr. Rugova was asked to comment on President Berisha's statement about giving up maximum demands over Kosova. Dr. Rugova replied that there was no change in Albania's policy toward Kosova. Let us say that the maximum demand is union with Albania, Prime Minister Bukoshi added. We are not insisting on this at the moment.

One of those present said that he was not impressed with the results of the policy of peaceful resistance. Dr. Rugova responded by saying: "Allow me to interrupt. The occupation is not the result of our policy. We know whose product the occupation is. The results of our policy have been our organization, the resistance we are waging in Kosova, and the preservation of our biological existence, which is a thorn in Serbia's flesh. We must steer clear of adventures. We cannot dare a repetition of Toplica or Cameria in Kosova. There is no sense in having land without a population. It then acquires another meaning."

More than 500 people attended this meeting of the delegation of the Republic of Kosova with the Albanian community in London.

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Zhelev To Act Against Land Bill Amendments

AU1704170695 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The amendments to the Land Bill, adopted by the National Assembly, are recommunizing. They do not merely stop the agrarian reform; they also turn Bulgarian agriculture back years. This position was expressed by representatives of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] parliamentary faction at a meeting with President Zhelev that took place today.

The amendments violate the basic rights of Bulgarian citizens, vested in the Bulgarian Constitution, and affect more than 70 percent of our citizens, Yordan Sokolov said to journalists. He also said that according to information he has regarding the Land Bill amendments, President Zhelev also seriously opposes them. According to Mr. Sokolov the president has stated that he will use all his constitutional prerogatives, as regards the draft bill, including the applying the postponing veto and turning to the Constitutional Court.

Videnov Chairs Integration Commission Meeting

AU1704170795 Sofia Khorizont Radio Network in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 17 April Prime Minister Zhan Videnov convened the first meeting of the governmental commission on economic integration. The commission comprises Deputy Prime Ministers Kiril Tsochev, Doncho Konakchiev, and Rumen Gechev, and the ministers of foreign affairs, finance, justice, industry, and agriculture.

At its first meeting the commission determined the priorities in the sphere of European integration and adopted a program on bringing our legislature closer to the legislatures of the EU countries.

Editorial: Videnov Policy Foggy, Cabinet Split

AU1804111795 Sofia 24 CHASA in Bulgarian 14 Apr 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Zhelev Gave Videnov Something To Think About"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Zhan [Videnov] has something to think about after Zhelev praised him for his turn to the right in his 13 August speech at the 13 August conference on cooperation with NATO.

Was this a compliment, an insult, or a strategic move?

Ivan Kostov recently accused the young prime minister of being too much to the left. Pro-Western oriented people are suspicious and think that Videnov is attempting a restoration. The red voters are murmuring that their man is turning to the right and is heading along the road of capitalism. The socialist apparatus subscribes to this assertion.

Obviously, Videnov's policy is wrapped in fog. It appears that the cabinet has split and is by no means as stable as it appears to be.

In the final analysis the president's statement to the effect that the cabinet could end its term within less than 20 months could turn out to be right.

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SIS Head Appointed; Labor Minister Interviewed

LD1804122095 Bratislava Rozhlasova Stanica Slovensko Network in Slovak 1000 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The program of the Slovak Government's sitting today involved more than 20 topics. [passage omitted] Bibiana Gunisova reports on the results of today's morning talks directly from the government office.

[Gunisova—live or recorded] To start with, I have some hot news: The Slovak Government discussed and approved the proposal to appoint Ivan Lexa as the director of the Slovak Intelligence Service [SIS]. Lexa's appointment comes into effect on 18 April 1995.

The Cabinet also discussed and approved a draft project of public works for job seekers. Olga Keltosova, the minister of labor, social affairs, and family, was the one who presented the project. Minister, could you briefly characterize this project and tell us what is its main purpose?

[Keltosova] First of all, I would like to say that we consider public works to be a very important instrument of our policy aimed at actively tackling unemployment, above all as regards creating temporary jobs for long-term unemployed. [passage omitted]

Our ministry has outlined several spheres for these jobs, including agriculture, the wood-processing industry, transport, the building industry, as well as administrative jobs, social services and health-care jobs, and ecologically orientated jobs. [passage omitted]

[Gunisova] My last question is when this project will start.

[Keltosova] This project will start on 1 July 1995.

Common Choice Deputies' Club Changing Name

AU1804103595 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 15 Apr 95 p 2

[Article by "(ad, sm)": "Together With a New Name"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bratislava—The Common Choice Deputies' Club should shortly be renamed the Deputies' Club of the Party of the Democratic Left [SDL], the Social Democratic Party in Slovakia [SDSS], the Green Party of Slovakia, and the Farmers' Movement. According to SDL Chairman Peter Weiss, this decision was made by all of the coalition parties because they feel the need to emphasize their identities. "This is also a plea to journalists to give the party affiliation of the individual deputies in our club," he said. The current name "Common Choice" was endowed by the electoral law and, according to the SDL chairman, changing the name of the common club does not mean that any of the partners would like to withdraw from it. "All 18 of us will continue to work in one club," said P. Weiss. According to him, it is pointless to look for anything else in the name change. "This is purely a technical matter," he added. SDSS First Deputy Chairman Miroslav Spejl also confirmed the intention to rename the deputies' club. He told us: "It became apparent from the discussions involving the parties in Common Choice that opinions were being expressed against this joint name within their membership bases." Another reason, according to him, was that the name said nothing about the coalition's left-wing character and concealed the political identity of the individual parties. "The name change is just an administrative matter. The name should not change from one day to the next. I think the old and new names should be used in parallel for a certain period. Naturally, the change will have no bearing on the composition of the club and its bodies," added M. Spejl.

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'Wave' of Local Government Bankruptcies Feared

95CH0188A Budapest HETI VILAGGAZDASAG in Hungarian 11 Mar 95 pp 89-90, 92

[Article by Janos Dobszay: "Wave of Bankruptcy—Insolvent Local Governments"]

[FBIS Translated Text] So far it had been only local governments in trouble through no fault of their own; in a few weeks, however, municipal governments that became insolvent due to their own management mistakes will be able to count on the state to rescue them, as well. The Interior Ministry is in the process of formulating a bill that would regulate the manner of and conditions for awarding special assistance. However, it is already certain that even the new law will be unable to prevent a potential wave of bankruptcies in local governments.

Approximately 50 public servants and officials were left without pay in the first months of the year in Bakonszeg, because the local government ran out of money to pay salaries. The Hajdu-Bihar County community is not the only one in the country where providing public services became precarious when the municipal government ran out of money. Although the Interior Ministry [BM] cannot furnish exact statistics before the end of this month, we were told that there are at least a dozen municipal governments that cannot fulfill their responsibilities prescribed by the law on local governments because the community is on the brink of bankruptcy due to management errors by its leaders.

When the system of local governments was introduced, the legislators took care only that local governments not become bankrupt if they fell behind through no fault of their own. (The Finance Ministry paid out approximately 4 billion forints [Ft] of assistance in this category, and the amount planned for this year is nearly Ft6.5 billion.) However, the law on local governments, passed in 1990 and amended several times since, still has no provisions for the case when a community becomes insolvent through the fault of its leaders. According to the regulations in force, "the local governments are responsible for the consequences of deficits, and the national budget has no responsibility for their liabilities." However, it is a justified expectation that communities cannot be left without service.

Based on applicable experiences of recent years, in the 1995 budget the parliament has already set aside Ft1 billion to assist local governments on the brink of bankruptcy through their own fault, but the legislators postponed defining exactly when and under what circumstances communities in trouble can receive these funds. We found out that the preparation of the bill to this effect is nearing completion at the Interior Ministry (ministry officials will provide information about the contents at a press briefing Wednesday evening, after we go to press). As an emergency measure, in order to prevent further bankruptcies, the government issued a regulation at last week's session to the effect that, in the future, local governments may not use their income from the central budget as collateral for a loan.

So far, the most frequent cause of municipal bankruptcies was the fact that the representative body had initiated a project or enterprise that exceeded the community's financial capabilities, and it was unable to repay the loans—or the enterprise itself failed. The latter happened in Bakonszeg: The local government, which had counted on a boom of provincial tourism, was ruined last year in the liquidation of the Bihar Lake Beach Corporation, in which it had a controlling interest. Since the municipal government is the guarantor of the corporation, it is supposed to pay Ft54 million to various creditors (almost as much as the cost of operating local government institutions for the entire year).

A case similar to the one in Bakonszeg occurred in Nagocs in Somogy County and Kiskunlachaza in Pest County, although in the latter community—at least according to mayor Mihaly Kocsis—the basic operation of the office is not in serious danger. "What happened was that the National Savings Bank [OTP], which was the local government's creditor and at the same time the keeper of the local government's account, simply took from our account the missed installments, which caused a temporary disturbance in the town's budget," the mayor told HETI VILAGGAZDASAG.

Banks have no right to take the state subsidy given to local governments even if the local government owes them money, Interior Minister Gabor Kuncze reaffirmed during the hour of spontaneous questions in parliament last week. In reply to a question by Socialist representative Mrs. Istvan Szollosi regarding the Bakonszeg case, the minister also promised that the government would transfer to the people of Bakonszeg the funds necessary to pay back wages. He added, however, that such measures could not become the rule in Hungary.

What exactly the general "mechanisms of assistance" will look like is not yet known today. According to the bill in preparation, trustees would take over the management of communities that became insolvent through the fault of their leaders. The municipal governments in trouble would carry out only their obligatory tasks, i.e., they would not be allowed to start businesses (HETI VILAGGAZDASAG, 14 January 1995). The state subsidy will ostensibly serve the purpose of repaying the interest on credit necessary for a "new start."

The ministry working on the new bill agrees that a bankruptcy law on local governments alone is not the solution. In order to prevent insolvency, it will be necessary to modify the law on local governments and to oversee the finances of local governments more stringently than is currently done. Although the law on local governments states that the safety of the finances of the local government is guaranteed by the representative

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body, and the regularity of procedures safeguarded by the mayor, so far this regulation has turned out to be fairly "soft." There were hardly any examples of serious accountability in the local government cycle that ended in December—only in extreme cases, when there was a suspicion of criminal activity (HETI VILAGGAZDASAG, 29 April, 13 August, 1994). Sometimes, however, a lack of knowledge or a lack of caution can be enough to lead to failure.

There have been local governments in the past years—we were told by the Interior Ministry—where the only thing the leaders took into consideration in opening an account was how close the bank was to the mayor's office. However, they did not take into consideration the fact that, according to the law on the National Savings Insurance Fund, the accounts of local governments are not protected by any insurance—and when the bank of their choice failed, the local government ended up with several million forints of unrecoverable balances.

At times, overspending by local governments was also considerably boosted by the swelling of local staff. In 1989, there were 37,149 employees in the local councils; in 1992, the number of employees reached 43,820. Although the increase in itself appears to be justified—the 1,579 councils were replaced by more than 3,000 local governments in 1990 (and since increased to 3,149), the increase in staff was actually not always based on rational decisions. A number of communities established an unjustifiable number of leadership positions: According to a survey by the Office of the State Auditor General, several local governments had one manager for every two or three employees.

"Up until today no objective method had been developed to create a balance between supply and demand as regards labor. The planning of the cost of wages and related expenses occurred without exploring and recording the situation at the start, and this shaky ground was the basis for planning necessary budgetary expenses," the officials of the Office of the State Auditor General stated in their report. The expenses of mayoral offices generally take up 15-25 percent of the budgets of municipal governments and 6-8 percent of those of the local governments of large cities; however, this ratio is in some cases well above the average.

A number of local governments took advantage of the fact that the law on public servants allowed deviations from the centrally determined system of base salaries. In some cases they deviated not only from the bases, but from the multipliers, as well—or they invented reasons to supplement salaries.

When we asked leaders of local governments how they got to the brink of ruin, they generally explained that the budget of local governments lacked funding sources. Today, nearly half of the income of local governments is from state subsidies and assistance. These funds are augmented by state income handed over to local governments (35 percent of income tax, 50 percent of motor vehicle tax) and other accumulation and capital income (for example: moneys from the sale of companies, apartments, and land).

The amount of individual income varies greatly among local governments. For instance, local taxes were levied by only one-half of the representative bodies, but income from this source is also very diverse. Eighty percent of the money collected in this category comes from trade licenses. A large income from this source can be expected only in communities that provided a favorable ground to start businesses, and, in general, these were not the communities threatened by bankruptcy.

"Bankrupt local governments can easily take down with them minority local governments as well, and make it impossible for them to operate," we heard from Pero Lasztity, managing director of the Minority Round Table, who found it unfair that, in an executive order issued last week, the government made the financing of minority local governments dependent on the "good graces" of municipal local governments (HETI VILAGGAZDASAG, 4 March 1995). The 682 minority local governments that have been formed in the country so far have received only a subsidy of Ft114,000 each from the central budget. Although the central budget allotted the government another Ft70 million for additional subsidies to minority local governments, it can easily happen that the money transferred to them will be "swallowed up" by local governments in trouble. How much the meager budget of minority local governments will increase during the rest of the year depends primarily on whether or not the leaders of municipal local governments appreciate the importance of the operation of minority organizations. However, in many places whether or not the minorities will be given adequate resources will be not just a matter of goodwill but rather a matter of whether the money will be available at all.

Problems, Prospects of Budapest Stock Exchange

95CH0188B Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 2 Mar 95 p 11

[Interview with Jozsef Rotyis, managing director of the Budapest Stock Exchange, by Gabor Lenkei; place and date not given: "Budapest Stock Exchange Has Several Legs To Stand On; No Discussion After Deals on the Floor; Banking Risk Could Lead to Confusing Situation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *Enthusiastic as brokers, dealers, investors, and officials of the stock exchange were last year, the beginning of this year dealt cruelly with them. In addition to a continual, sometimes precipitous, fall of exchange ratesfor o deal with disturbances in the computer system and the problems of a revamped tax system. We spoke with Jozsef Rotyis, managing director of the Budapest Stock Exchange.*

[Lenkei] With respect to the stock exchange, since the beginning of the year everyone is interested in the

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declining prices. The situation of the other leading interest rates. [Rotyis] The slow decline in prices, which has been going on approximately 9 months, is due partly to internal and partly to external causes. The most important internal cause is the faltering nature and the slackening pace of stock exchanges with so-called developed markets. In comparison, the Budapest stock exchange showed an increase of 2-3 percent, expressed in U.S. dollars.

The events in the beginning of the year were also influenced by the collapse in Mexico. Large investment funds concluded from this event that other so-called developing markets are also too risky. Of course, one could expect that, as a consequence of the Mexican collapse, at least a portion of the capital fleeing Latin America would appear on other developing markets, such as Hungary. However, this opportunity will not be realized if we cannot display clear, convincing policies and a clear supply.

[Lenkei] What you just said implies a lot of what is to be expected this year.

[Rotyis] I do not think a lot will happen in the first half of the year. The introduction of a few smaller firms can be expected, such as Triton and Pannongabona [Pannon Grain]. One does not hear much about the really big bites—such as the Hungarian Telecommunications Enterprise [MATAV], the Hungarian Oil and Natural Gas Corporation [MOL Inc.], and the National Savings Bank [OTP]—which could really draw attention to Hungary. I cannot report about concrete steps in these matters. Perhaps by June, before the balances expire, we can expect a few new stocks, but only if the law on privatization is really passed in March. In addition to the many unfavorable effects, the HungarHotels affair could have one favorable consequence for the stock exchange: namely, that it could make privatization by the stock exchange more valuable in the eyes of foreign investors. That is to say: Once a deal is concluded on the floor, there can be no arguments.

[Lenkei] The change in tax laws can also have a stimulating effect on stock investments, and could reduce the current predominance of state bonds.

[Rotyis] In my opinion a possible outcome of the new tax law and the possibility of changing portfolios could be that a more liquid market can develop if there is an intention to invest in stocks. If, however, investors are held back from the stock market by other, more fundamental reasons, then it, alone, will hardly have a perceivable effect.

An increased liquidity could also have an effect on prices, in that institutional—and primarily foreign—investors would seek out these stocks. However, this will be only one of the innumerable factors of change. Thus, I would caution everyone not to expect great changes from this alone.

[Lenkei] Last year, besides the changing prices, it was perhaps the insecurity of the computer system that caused the most trouble.

[Rotyis] On the contrary, we should regard the fact that we have had an automatic trading system since March as one of last year's accomplishments . We did indeed have problems with it, especially at the end of the summer and at the beginning of the year, but I would like to point out that the stock exchange was never closed because of it. At worst, trading started late, or was conducted by a different system, via open outcry. In comparison with many other stock exchanges, the Budapest stock exchange has the advantage that it has several legs to stand on. As far as the technological problems are concerned, they were partially due to a deficient setting of certain parameters. These mistakes were revealed in the course of operation, and have since been corrected.

[Lenkei] There were interruptions for other reasons as well, however, before the end of the year.

[Rotyis] We cannot yet say with complete certainty what caused those problems. We can do so only after they no longer occur, once the mistakes are corrected. It is interesting that those mistakes have not occurred since.

The problems at the beginning of February can be attributed to yet another reason: a blackout and its consequences. I emphasize that I am not a computer expert, and no adequate explanation has been found yet, but my feeling is that some sort of communications problem arose between the terminals and the computer center, which shut down the system. Together with the software supplier, we are investigating the reasons for this problem The difficulty is compounded by the fact that we cannot shut down for two weeks in order to test the system. We can use only the time when the stock exchange is closed.

[Lenkei] What conclusions have you drawn from the series of interruptions at the stock exchange?

[Rotyis] By no means the conclusion that we should replace the system. The problems are not of that sort. Of course the interruptions had repercussions, but if we look at it closely, the system functioned with 99-percent accuracy. Thus, we might only need minor changes, and not the replacement of the entire system. On the contrary, this year we would like to lay the foundation for a decentralized system that could be operated from the offices of brokerages.

[Lenkei] The novelties of 1995 seem to be the creation of a derivative market and an organized free market. The latter, however, is not really new, because there was already an earlier, unsuccessful, attempt. What makes the new version different?

[Rotyis] Indeed, a few years ago we attempted to create a free market. We are trying to do essentially the same, with more fine-tuned regulations, but the fact that the situation has changed considerably promises success.

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Today the market is a lot more liquid, with more stocks, many more traders—and there is a much larger interest in it. For these reasons, the brokers are more interested in creating a successful free market than they were before. Also, interests working counter to the soon-to-be-introduced regular and obligatory OTC information and the organization of a free market are waning. And it is in the interest of both the investors and the issuers of stocks—or the State Property Agency and the State Trustee Corporation, which represent the issuers—to allow prices to develop on this market, which could serve as the basis of further sales.

[Lenkei] One is once again hearing that there are plans to once again allow banks on the stock exchange—this time on the state bonds market.

[Rotyis] I don't think that the problems of the state bonds market could be solved by such a step. The argument that this way the banks would play a larger role on the primary markets, and would then be able to sell more on the secondary market—the stock exchange—does not hold, because banks will always be interested in selling their own bonds. Thus, they will not rate the state's bonds higher. But even if the basis of the idea were true, it would not follow that they would buy bonds on the secondary market. In my opinion, the banks can be agents, and they could thus utilize the advantages of large networks, several examples of which can be found. Beyond this, every important bank has a brokerage which, although it is a separate organization, is not completely alien to the parent institution. On the other hand, I think the stock exchange is able to handle the risk involved in the stock market. The latest measures—the establishment of membership agreements and other steps—made the stock exchange more secure. To introduce banking risks would result in an altogether confusing situation.

Manner of Fighting Police Corruption Criticized

95CH0188C Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 2 Mar 95 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Fight Corruption Lawfully—Union Criticizes Chief Commissioner of Police"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The arbitration meeting between the chief commissioner of police and the Independent Police Union [FRSZ] concerning the new regulation of fines was unsuccessful. The case continues before the Budapest Labor Court. The chief secretary of the union feels that control measures introduced under the guise of fighting against corrupt policemen, such as searches of person and clothing, are used unlawfully against police personnel.

Agota Fabian, first secretary of the union, told NEPSZABADSAG that the FRSZ, in agreement with the leadership of the police, encouraged that police corruption be handled strictly, which occasionally happens with on-the-spot fines. Before the new regulations were issued, however, the leadership of the police failed to comply with its duty to inform, thus violating union rights, and the union had no opportunity to object to the points that violated the rights of police personnel. Exercising its lawful right, the FRSZ raised an objection and asked the chief commissioner of police to delete the objectionable items of the regulation. However, the official, head of the National Police Headquarters [ORFK] did not accept the union's position.

Agota Fabian emphasized that the union regards strict measures by supervisors necessary to fight instances of corruption in connection with on-the-spot fines, but that the contents of the regulation violate the constitutional and citizenship rights of the police staff. The forms of control can only be legally applied if there exists a legitimate suspicion that a crime has been committed. Because these points of the regulation cannot be implemented, they do not serve the purpose of fighting police corruption, and have no restraining power. The union considers it imperative that the chief commissioner of police launch a national inspection campaign in order to prevent police corruption. The chief commissioner of police did not accept this position at the arbitration meeting, and the union appealed to the labor court.

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Customs Laws Amended Preparatory To Joining WTO

WS1804122495 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 18 Apr 95 p 18

[Article by Jacek Pawlicki: "Why Do We Need WTO?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] *A new customs tariff, a new customs code modeled after the EU equivalent, flexible customs on agricultural produce, lifting the ban on imports of spirits and pure vodka—those are just a few of the changes in Polish trade that lie in store for us once we become a member of the World Trade Organization [WTO].*

"Poland is to become a WTO member on 1 July. There will definitely be no delay," says Andrzej Bryt, deputy minister of foreign economic cooperation.

For the time being, we are a member-observer of the WTO, an organization composed of more than 120 countries that practice free trade. The WTO was founded in January 1995, replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

How advanced are our preparations for entering WTO three months before zero hour? Parliament has already passed a ratification package. Once it is signed by the president (there should not be any problem with that), we will be able to officially apply for membership. At the beginning of May, the Polish representative at the WTO will submit a notification to the secretariat in Geneva.

The Code Will Not Be a Transplant

Obviously, WTO entry does not mean only ratifying a thick package of documents. Huge changes in Polish legislation pertaining to foreign trade will take place. The customs tariffs code, for example, the draft of which has already been approved in the course of interministerial agreements and that is soon to be analyzed by the Economic Committee of the Council of Ministers, will replace the deficient customs law of 1989.

"The amendment of the customs code is the largest undertaking in the field of adapting Polish law to the legislation of the 'Group of Fifteen,'" says Deputy Minister Byrt, pointing out that the document will be a Polish version of the EU customs code. Experts from the Main Customs Office stress that it cannot be a "transplant" and that it should account for the Polish perspective of what goes on at the border.

Pessimists claim that three years will not be enough to get used to all the novelties of the lengthy document (the "rough copy" is several hundred pages long). Deputy Minister Byrt claims that the code may be ready by midyear but that it will become effective no earlier than in January 1996.

Other legal acts are also being currently prepared on the trade of goods between Poland and the rest of the world in compliance with WTO standards. The law on protective measures and antidumping regulations will constitute a basis for fighting unfair competition of foreign traders. A statute on the conditions and methods of settling additional customs fees on agricultural produce will protect our farmers from an influx of imported goods where applicable. A law on foreign trade administration will allow setting limits on imported goods. Unlike quotas, once the limits are "exhausted," it will be possible to extend them without a lengthy administrative procedure.

Agricultural Revolution

The largest changes, however, may be expected in the agricultural and food products trade. A new Polish agricultural offer will become effective in July. All noncustoms trade barriers will be converted into customs. Compensatory prices will no longer be obligatory. Customs on a majority of agricultural products will decrease by one-fifth. They will grow considerably, on the other hand, on more than 100 "popular consumer goods" (e.g., potatoes, meat, dairy products, fruit).

The Ministry of Agriculture explains that the reason for the increase is the conversion of noncustoms limits to customs. High customs rates will be compensated by quotas within which goods will be imported according to current customs rates. The Ministry of Agriculture assures that, if need be, customs will be lowered and the quotas increased.

Pure and Legal

The impending WTO entry announcement should also herald good news for lovers of pure foreign vodkas, the import of which is currently prohibited. That ban is to be abolished most probably in July, and importers will be given a quota of 52,784 hectoliters of "100 percent" alcohol.

"Pure foreign vodka will appear in the shops, but it will certainly not be cheap," say experts. There will a customs tax of approximately 105 percent on vodkas imported within the quota. A customs barrier of 420 percent will be placed on anything above that.

Poll: 'Moderately Favorable' Support for Cabinet

WS1804122395 Warsaw NOWA EUROPA in Polish 15-17 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by ASS: "CBOS: Every Third Pole Supports Oleksy Cabinet; Smaller Support at the Outset"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An opinion poll conducted in April by the Public Opinion Research Center [CBOS] suggests that support for the Oleksy Cabinet does not differ much from the support the previous Cabinet enjoyed right before stepping down. This means that, unlike previous governments, the initial support the

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Oleksy Cabinet received from the people was not considerable. Nonetheless, the respondents' attitude toward the prime minister can be termed "moderately favorable."

In April, every third Pole (33 percent) considered himself a supporter of the Oleksy Cabinet. According to the CBOS, this support is similar to the support the Pawlak government enjoyed last January. Compared to this government, Oleksy's Cabinet has fewer opponents (24 percent); however, the number of people who are indifferent is greater.

Major changes have occurred regarding the structure of government supporters. In January, the Pawlak Cabinet was backed by 58 percent of supporters of the Polish Peasant Party, whereas the Oleksy Cabinet is backed by only 42 percent. The new Cabinet has become popular with potential voters of "Solidarity"—24 percent in January and 36 percent in April. The Oleksy Cabinet is also enjoying greater support among Freedom Union sympathizers than the previous government did.

The formation of the Oleksy Cabinet added some optimism. More than one-third of the CBOS respondents (37 percent) were hopeful that policies carried out by the new government will improve the economic situation. The last time the CBOS registered such optimistic opinions about the government's economic policies was last June.

The CBOS also asked respondents about their personal feelings about the new prime minister. Oleksy gave hope to 57 percent of the respondents (for the sake of comparison, Waldemar Pawlak gave hope to 66 percent of respondents). There are more people who declare an aversion to the new prime minister (3 percent in the case of Pawlak and 9 percent in the case of Oleksy). Taking these indexes into account, the CBOS terms the reception of the new prime minister by the people as moderately favorable.

Attitude Toward the Government in Apr 95 (in percent)

Supporters	33
Opponents	24
Indifferent	37
Hard to tell	6

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Defense Minister Reportedly Hospitalized 14 Apr

AU1804110995 Bucharest EVENIMENTUL ZILEI in Romanian 15-16 Apr 95 p 8

[Unattributed report: "National Defense Minister Gheorghe Tinca Hospitalized"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday afternoon National Defense Minister Gheorghe Tinca was hospitalized at the Central Military Hospital, Medical Section 1.

We tried to obtain further details from Major Elena Olariu, MApN [National defense Ministry] spokesman, but she said the minister was very well and had not been hospitalized.

We have learned from reliable sources, however, that Gheorghe Tinca is suffering from gallbladder cramps. EVENIMENTUL ZILEI wishes him a speedy recovery.

SRI Oversight Commission Chairman Views Work

AU1704203295 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The role of the Parliamentary Commission for Investigating the Activity of the Romanian Intelligence Service [SRI] has proven quite beneficial for the activity of this service. Consequently, it was established that extending parliamentary control to the External Intelligence Service [SIE], too, was not necessary. Vasile Vacaru, head of the Commission for Investigating the Activity of the SRI, said this today after the commission members were received by President Ion Iliescu at Cotroceni Palace. Today's meeting also pointed out the need for better cooperation in the sphere of intelligence as a basic element of ensuring national security, and the need for greater legislative coherence over intelligence activity, Senator Vacaru said.

Vacaru also told our correspondent Dan Preda that another subject tackled during today's meeting at Cotroceni Palace was the situation created in the wake of the recent spate of terrorist telephone calls. The chairman of the Parliamentary Commission for Investigating the Activity of the SRI said that after the hearing of SRI director Virgil Magureanu, the conclusion was reached that half of these telephone calls were made by psychopaths, but that the other half might be linked to certain activities aimed at economically destabilizing Tarom Airlines. He also said that it is quite possible that these telephone threats will continue, as long as there is no adequate legislation in this respect and no modern technological means to locate the authors of these telephone calls.

PSM Not To Challenge Ownership Rights

AU1704153195 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the start of today's news conference by the Socialist Party of Labor [PSM], Senator Adrian Paunescu, the party's first vice president, said that if the PSM came to power, quote. it does not plan to contest anybody's ownership rights. Referring to the government's economic ordinances Nos. 1 and 13, he said that the PSM will argue and vote against them. Senator Paunescu said that if the economy is not reoriented toward social goals, the party's leadership will ask for a position in the Council of the State Property Fund [FPS].

Regarding the dialogue conducted last week by PSM leaders with the representatives of the government, PSM Vice President Ioan Sassu said that subjects tackled were: the government's economic and social strategy in 1995; the evolution of prices and wages; the prospects for economic growth; and the control of inflation. In this respect, the PSM representatives emphasized the need to adopt real measures to stimulate economic growth and protect the national economy, and the need for better social protection.

In conclusion, Mr. Paunescu pointed to several electoral successes of the socialist candidates in the cities of Targoviste, Sighet, and Borsa. He added that the discrimination of PSM candidates by the respective prefects will have certain repercussions, and that the PSM will closely monitor the situation there, our correspondent reports.

PNTCD Fears 'Significant' Price Hikes Coming

AU1704153095 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Peasant Christian Democratic Party [PNTCD] held its weekly news conference in Bucharest today. Senator Radu Vasile, PNTCD spokesman, said that, despite the government's optimistic promises, significant price hikes can be expected in the next six months, hikes 10-12 percent greater than what has been announced by the government. Regarding Emergency Ordinance No. 1 designed to redress the economic situation, Vasile said he thinks certain of its criteria are good from an economic viewpoint. Nevertheless, the PNTCD protests against the content and implementation of the ordinance, believing that it should be accompanied by other measures as well. The solution advanced by his political grouping would be to suspend the ordinance for a period of six to nine months, during which time one could ascertain the real trends in the sphere of price increases.

At the same news conference, Deputy Razvan Dobrescu referred to the draft law on fighting terrorism and said he thinks the law is unjustified. The PNTCD feels that the real goal of the law is to inhibit the freedom of expression of the citizens and the independent press. This law is the first step toward establishing a totalitarian political regime, Deputy Razvan Dobrescu said in conclusion.

Referring to the Law on Nationalized Homes, Ion Diaconescu, PNTCD first vice president, said that the government contests the rights of the owners, under the pretext that it is defending the rights of the tenants. In truth, the government is defending the rights of the former and current nomenklatura.

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Balladur Sets Conditions for French Presence

AU1804111995 Paris AFP in English 1106 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Paris, April 18 (AFP)—Prime Minister Edouard Balladur set conditions Tuesday for maintaining France's peacekeepers in Bosnia and called for an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council to take measures to protect UN forces.

If the conditions are not met, "France would have to decide on the withdrawal of the French soldiers in Bosnia," Balladur said, speaking after the weekend slayings by snipers of two French peacekeepers in Sarajevo. Balladur's office also called in a communique for an early meeting at the ministerial level of the five-nation Contact Group on Bosnia—comprising Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

The communique further called on Serbs, Croats and Bosnian Moslems to meet "under the auspices of the London conference" to resume their negotiations.

The prime minister set three conditions for keeping France's 4,500 troops in former Yugoslavia, including "respect of and renewal of the ceasefire between the parties." The four-month cease-fire, which has been increasingly violated, is due to expire at the end of April.

Balladaur said the other conditions were a "resumption of negotiations" and "freedom of action and movement and the strengthening of the security of UNPROFOR," the UN Protection Force. The prime minister said that "if the results of these initiatives were unsatisfactory," France would withdraw its troops. France has done its duty and is the biggest contributor to UNPROFOR, Balladur added.

He spoke after an emergency meeting here with Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Defense Minister Francois Leotard called following the sniper killings of two French peacekeepers in Sarajevo Friday and Saturday. Aides to President Francois Mitterrand also attended the 45-minute meeting.

The prime minister said France was "determined" that everything should be done to ensure "respect of security rules essential for whoever is acting in the service of peace." Balladur said Juppe would hold talks with UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali in New York and contact other contributors to UN forces in former Yugoslavia.

On Sunday, the prime minister had said of Bosnia: "We cannot stay there forever if conditions for peace are not forthcoming and they don't want us any more. What does that mean? It means if life is impossible, if our soldiers are being shot at, which is happening now, if arms deliveries begin again and war restarts," the prime minister said.

In Bonn, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Tuesday he hoped France would not withdraw its troops. [passage omitted]

Both Sides Blamed for Deaths of French Soldiers

AU1704143095 Paris AFP in English 1414 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Paris, April 17 (AFP)—UN Sarajevo sector commander in Bosnia General Herve Gobilliard blamed Bosnian Government troops and Bosnian Serbs respectively for the killing of two French peacekeepers in Sarajevo on Friday [14 April] and Saturday.

Gobilliard said the United Nations believed the Bosnians were probably responsible for the killing of the first soldier, a 23-year-old serving with the French Foreign Legion.

"For Friday's assassination, the very strong possibility is that it came from the Bosnian side. In contrast, for Saturday's assassination, the very strong possibility is rather the Serb side," the general said on RTL radio. A UN source in Sarajevo had previously put at 90 percent the likelihood the Bosnians were behind the first incident.

In the second shooting of a lance-corporal hit while erecting an anti-sniper barricade Saturday, the fatal shot was believed to have come from a Serb-controlled sector of Sarajevo. Gobilliard said only closer inspection of the bullets and bullet-proof vests the soldiers were wearing would shed more light on the killings.

He added the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was "determined to pursue its action" in Bosnia and added the 2,500-strong French contingent's morale was still "very good" despite the "emotion and the sadness." He pointed out the troops were in Bosnia for humanitarian reasons and that their departure, which France threatened it might demand if the situation further deteriorated, would lead to all-out war. [passage omitted]

Joint General Staff, Gen Smith Discuss Relations

AU1704145695 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and the Croatian Defense Council [HVO] in the joint general staff, Generals Fikret Muslimovic and Zivko Budimir, and their associates today received Gen. Rupert Smith, the UN Protection Force [UNPROFOR] commander for Bosnia-Herzegovina. The topics discussed were the current situation, the implementation of the Washington Agreement, and the normalization of life in areas under the control of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and the HVO.

Gen. Smith was informed in detail about the previous work and results of the joint general staff, and the overall progress achieved in relations between the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and the HVO. The joint assessment is that the process of reestablishing trust between the Bosniak and Croatian people, that is, the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and the HVO, is progressing daily

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and is creating conditions for further progress. This has been confirmed by the joint general staff's stance that they would carry on with the implementation of all tasks and establishment of conditions for joint action against the Serbian-Montenegrin aggressor.

Gen. Smith particularly stressed that he saw the Federation project as being one of the most important objectives that needs to be supported at this point as an example that Bosnia-Herzegovina—despite all its misfortunes—has a bright future. All the participants at today's meetings agreed to take a more active approach toward solving all current issues. The meeting was assessed as being positive and confidence was expressed that it would prompt even better and more concrete cooperation between UNPROFOR and the representatives of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Army and the HVO in the joint general staff.

Karadzic, Krajisnik View Results of Assembly

AU1804110195 Banja Luka Srpski Radio Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 17 Apr 95

[Report by Zoran Zuza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Early this morning in Sanski Most, the Serb Republic National Assembly ended a discussion about the military and political situation, with particular emphasis on the Bihac front. The first sitting of the 50th assembly session had as many as 25 items on the agenda, but only two items were discussed in full, so there will be another session in some 20 days. Zoran Zuza has more about that.

[Zuza] Our session, as ever, was lengthy, stormy, and detailed, but always with a democratic debate, RS [Srpska republic] President Radovan Karadzic said after the 50th session of the National Assembly and added:

[Karadzic] Our decisions mostly follow the trend of developing and strengthening our combat poise, with a clear orientation toward peace, if peace is possible. If not, we have to secure victory by means of war. And as far as the Serb federation project is concerned, the assembly reached a decision to form an interrepublic body composed of three members from the Srpska republic and three members of the republic of Serb Krajina that would be charged with formulating a plan and program for the forming of the Serb federation, i.e. of the unification of the two republics, and later perhaps of other republics as well. At any rate, we have made the first step to that end.

[Zuza] The emphasis of the two-day session was on the military and political situation, with a focus on the situation on the fronts, RS parliament chairman Momcilo Krajisnik stated.

[Krajisnik] As you could see, we had a long discussion. Our goal was to consider the military situation from all aspects, to analyze the circumstances. What we can say at the end is that it was very productive. We agreed that there were certain problems and that we must make a choice, that we must send a clear message to our enemy and to those who are mediating that we want peace negotiations, but if there are no negotiations and if the Contact Group and the international community cannot find a solution, in that case—and this falls within the province of the Supreme Command and the General Staff—we must devise a plan, and this will be the goal of our next session, the plan for the final defeat of our enemy. Personally, I would like to continue negotiating because, in this civil war, every defeat of our enemy is painful and we would like to have peace as soon as possible.

[Zuza] Speaking about the project of a federation between the Srpska republic and the republic of Serb Krajina, Chairman Krajisnik pointed out the following:

[Krajisnik] We adopted a project proposed by the republic of Serb Krajina about the forming of a federation with the Srpska republic. In the name of that unification, we formed a commission that will be charged with devising a plan for the unification. We hope that this will be realized and as soon as possible.

Karadzic, Mladic Comment on Military Situation

AU1804111695 Banja Luka Srpski Radio Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 17 Apr 95

[Report by Milka Tosic]

[FBIS Translated Text] Radovan Karadzic, Srpska republic [RS] supreme commander and president, and Lieutenant General Ratko Mladic, RS army commander in chief, visited Vlasic today, where they met with Lt. Gen. Momir Talic, commander of 1st Krajina Corps, and officers on the Vlasic front and discussed the military situation after the Muslim offensive that began on 20 March. After the meeting, we recorded the following statements:

[Karadzic] It was not by chance that we came to Vlasic, we planned it, this is a routine visit. We visited Vlasic before and we, Gen. Mladic and myself, came here again to meet with Gen. Talic and his officers and to analyze the situation, to give some guidelines and orders.

The international community must stop supporting the Muslims, because that is the only reason this war is prolonged. Had it not been for that support, the solution would have been found a long time ago. On the other hand, if the Muslim side had opted for a political solution—we were prepared to haggle, to negotiate about the borders and about the territory, as well as about natural borders, important buildings, rivers, etc. However, since the Muslim side opted for the war option and for war, the war will determine the course of events. In that case, we cannot talk about territorial concessions. Simply, if they opt for an all-out war, then they will have it, but of course we will fight until the Muslim Army is fully defeated.

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[Unidentified correspondent] I see you are wearing your uniform. Have you discussed the related issues at the assembly?

[Karadzic] I usually wear my uniform when I visit the combat zone and when we are facing a counteroffensive. I do not wear a uniform on other occasions, because we have not declared a state of war. We are trying to preserve elements of civilian life as much as we can, but this is a combat zone.

[Unidentified correspondent] Tell us briefly about the assembly session.

[Karadzic] The assembly discussed at great length the course of events, especially regarding the war and our obligations to fight this war, equip and supply the army, various transformations of the economy to fulfill the needs of the army and vice versa. In short, our assembly was very democratic, as ever, very open, lengthy. All those who want to take part in the discussion are free to do so and I think we are much stronger after this session, and more determined, and that our enemy will probably feel that very soon.

[Unidentified correspondent] Gen. Mladic, the Muslims say that Vlasic is actually their road to Banja Luka.

[Mladic] [chuckles] That's what they think.

[Unidentified correspondent] Could you briefly tell us about the situation on other fronts in the Srpska republic?

[Mladic] I think our army is in full control of the situation, and we should not worry about their desire to realize their goals. We must organize ourselves much more seriously than before and pave the way for the job that the army is supposed to do. I hope that our parliament, at the latest session, was well informed about all the problems and needs of the army, and that satisfactory solutions will be found in order to give our soldiers everything they need, for we are indeed faced with a mighty enemy that is backed by almost half the world.

Karadzic: Serb Counteroffensive

LD1704224595 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 2159 GMT 17 Apr 95

[Item received by fax]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vlasic, 17 Apr (SRNA)—Radovan Karadzic, president of the Srpska republic and supreme commander of its armed forces, announced on Mount Vlasic today a decisive Serb counteroffensive which has been caused by Muslim offensive against the Srpska republic borders.

"If the Muslims want war they will have war to the end—to their complete military defeat. The Serb army has achieved its greatest successes in counteroffensives and if the Muslims attack we have the legitimate right to retaliate with all weapons at our disposal," President Karadzic stressed, adding:

"We will launch a counteroffensive and I fear we will have to defeat our enemy completely, as it is obviously not ready for a political solution."

Stressing that the Serbs are much stronger and more decisive after yesterday's session of the People's Assembly in Sanski Most, the supreme commander of the Srpska republic armed forces announced that striking power will be felt very soon by Serb enemies.

"We have come to Mount Vlasic to gain an insight into the situation and give some guidelines and orders. We are here now and we will stay on Mount Vlasic. We will punish every violation of the cease-fire and incursion in our territory," President Karadzic warned.

Recalling that the Serb army has been observing the cease-fire in former Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Srpska republic president said that the entire world could see who was the first to violate the cease-fire on Mounts Majevica and Vlasic.

"The international community must stop supporting the Muslims, as it is the only way to stop this war. It they had not supported them, a solution would have been found much earlier," President Karadzic went on to say, concluding:

"Since the Muslims have opted for war, then it will be as it happens in war. There can be no discussion any longer of any territorial concessions."

Mladic on Short-Term Cease-Fire

LD1704230895 Belgrade SRNA in Serbo-Croatian 2159 GMT 17 Apr 95

[Item received by fax]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vlasic, 17 Apr (SRNA)—Colonel General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Srpska republic army in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said on Mt. Vlasic today that the Serb Army would rigorously punish every Muslim offensive.

"By crudely violating the agreement on the four-month cessation of hostilities the Muslims have achieved small successes on Mt. Vlasic and they have captured some facilities; but their offensive has been halted and they will be punished," Gen. Mladic said.

Stressing that the Serbs who have been swindled on numerous occasions no longer believed in any short-term cease-fires which enable the enemy to get weapons, the Serb army commander said that the international community bore part of responsibility for the war.

"I think this is a message to the international community that it has to stop acting as a Muslim guardian," Gen. Mladic said. [passage omitted]

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Mladic on Mt Vlasic Situation

LD1704222595 Zagreb HTV Television in Serbo-Croatian 2130 GMT 17 Apr 95

[Rebroadcast of Bosnian Serb TV item on Zagreb TV "Slikom na Sliku" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mladic and Karadzic paid a visit to their soldiers on Mount Majevica [as heard] today. Here is what Mladic stated on that occasion:

[Bosnian Serb announcer] Radovan Karadzic, president of the Srpska republic, and Colonel General Ratko Mladic, commander of the Srpska republic army, today paid a visit to Mount Vlasic [as heard] which has for almost a month been under attack from the Army of the so-called Bosnia-Herzegovina:

[Mladic speaking to reporter in the presence of Karadzic] I think that the situation is completely under the control of our army and we should not be worried by their desire to achieve their goals. We ought to organize ourselves much more seriously than we have done so far and create conditions for the army to do its job.

I believe that our parliament at its latest session was exhaustively informed and well briefed on all the problems and needs of our army and that appropriate solutions would be found so that our soldiers can get everything they need, because we are fighting a very strong enemy which is supported by almost half of the world community.

Serbs Prevent U.S. Ambassador From Flying

AU1804112495 Paris AFP in English 1114 GMT 18 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sarajevo, April 18 (AFP)—The UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) Tuesday condemned a decision by a Bosnian Serb liaison officer to prevent the U.S. ambassador here from boarding a UN flight Monday out of besieged Sarajevo.

Ambassador Victor Jackovich, who was leaving at the end of his term here, had to go instead by road. A Bosnian Serb liaison officer at the airport told UNPROFOR he could not guarantee the safety of the plane if "civilians" were to board, UNPROFOR spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said here.

Jackovich was seen here as a firm supporter of the Bosnian Government. "UNPROFOR regrets what happened" and has issued both verbal and written protests to the Serbs over the issue, Coward said.

UNPROFOR resumed flying into besieged Sarajevo on a limited scale Sunday, a week after Bosnian Serbs fired at a C-130 transport plane bringing in emergency aid. But, with the exception of French Defence Minister Francois Leotard, who flew in over the weekend in the wake of the killing of two soldiers from the French contingent here, UNPROFOR has refused to transport any civilian passengers.

UNPROFOR was "well-aware of the disquiet of Bosnian Serbs" concerning the flying by the United Nations of Bosnian civilians and government officials, including objections raised by Serb commander-in-chief General Ratko Mladic, Coward had explained on Monday. Coward said however that a number of civilian UNPROFOR employees were scheduled to fly out of town Tuesday afternoon as the United Nations continued to "gradually test the water." The airport is under UN control, but surrounded on all sides by government and Serb lines.

Belgrade Paper Claims Mujahidin in B-H Army

AU1704192395 Belgrade VECERNJE NOVOSTI in Serbo-Croatian 16 Apr 95 p 4

[Article by B. Maric: "To Death for Allah"; all foreign names as transliterated]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first mujahidin units, Allah's army and the Muslim militia, were created in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina in the middle of 1992. The center for training the "holy war fighters" was in the village of Rostovo, near Travnik.

After Rostovo, which the mujahidin left last year, their centers were set up in Mehurici, 7 kilometers southeast of Busovaca; Pazaric, 3 kilometers south of Sarajevo; and Bistricak, 25 kilometers from Zenica.

In addition to these big camps, there are also small ones in which Bosnia-Herzegovina Muslims are being trained for conducting jihad, holy war. The most famous camps are in Jablanica near Tesanj, and Muderiz—which means a military school—in Kalesija.

Two Trainings

"We have come here to further the Bosnian Army and to teach the Bosnian Muslims Islam," Mahmud Abdul Abu Aziz, commander of the first center for the training of mujahidin in Rostovo, told the German TAGESZEITUNG.

The training of the "holy war fighters" consists of two parts, the military and the religious part, and after the completion of the training, every mujahidin is ritually given a rifle, ammunition, and a bomb.

Militarily, the mujahidin are being trained for a guerrilla-type of fighting and for carrying out sabotage-terrorist actions. This means that, in addition to being taught to use classical weapons, they are also trained to handle all types of explosives, mines, and armor-piercing weapons.

Whenever possible, training ends with the use of live ammunition against "live targets," a captured Serb or a Croat, that is, the opponent's soldier. In this way the

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mujahidin gain "experience of death," and "rid themselves of consideration for life."

"Instructions given to the Muslim fighters" state that "Jihad sacrifices are fully acknowledged by Allah." This sentence expresses the essence of religious teaching, which is compulsory for all mujahidin throughout the world.

The training of the mujahidin is conducted by 50 officers from Ba'labakk, near Beirut, members of Hizballah, the Party of Allah, founded by Shayk Muhamed Husein Fadlalah and financed by Iran.

Resolved To Die

In addition to Hizballah members, in the Muslim part of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina there are also officers (instructors) and fighters from the Iranian "Revolutionary Guard," "al Kib," "El Fathir," "Salah Jehida," "Tovhid"....

The mujahidin units of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Muslims emerged under their leadership. The most famous among them is the 7th Brigade, which is a part of the 3d Corps of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The "Green Legion" and "Gerila" from Zenica, and "El mujahidin" from Tesanj, "Crni Labudovi" [Black Swans] from Kakanj, "Muderiz," or the "Teacher of Islam" from Konjic were all founded on the "ethnic principles of Islam."

Recently, the "Tabut Brigade," named after a plank of wood (tabut) used for the burial of Muslims, was founded within the 2d Corps of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Tuzla. This means that its members are resolved to die for Allah and become sehidi [martyrs].

There is no precise data on the number of mujahidin in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina. It is estimated that in this former Yugoslav republic, within the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, there are between 1,500 and 2,000 mujahidin from Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran....

According to the estimates, in the Muslim Army in the former Bosnia-Herzegovina there are more than 4,000 mujahidin from that republic. They have finished training in Rostovo, Mehurici, or Bistricak. Together with their "brothers in Islam" from the Near East they constitute the most fanatical and the most bloodthirsty section of the Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

[Box, p 4]

Students

The Muslim terrorist organizations "Salah Jehida" and the "Muslim Brotherhood" have had their "prominent branches" in Sarajevo for years. Vasim Ben Asan, Vasim Ben Muhamed Bandaki, Ahmed Ben Dir, and Atar Muhamed all used to reside in the capital city of the former Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The "Opposition's Front" [Front Opozicije] Islamic terrorist organization was "represented" in Sarajevo by Merhaf Jasti, Mohamed Fetih Kamil, and Haji Hadri.

They were all formally registered as students.

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Krajina's Babic Receives U.S. Senate Delegation

AU1704132995 Knin Srpski Radio Krajina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 14 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] RSK [republic of Serb Krajina] Foreign Minister Milan Babic received a delegation of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Information Service of the RSK Foreign Ministry reports.

Mr. Babic informed his guests from the United States about his views on the causes of the crisis on the territory of the former Yugoslavia and the position of the RSK, as well as about his understanding of a new role and responsibility of the United States in keeping peace and restoring confidence among the nations and states on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

The statement says that they also discussed the role of the UNCRO [UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia] and Mr. Babic warned that the aggression of the Croatian Army on the territory of the RSK in the Dinara region from the territory of former Bosnia-Herzegovina can undermine the results of peace agreements and the realization of UNCRO, concludes the press statement by the RSK Foreign Ministry.

'Provocations' by Croatian, Bosnian Army Units

AU1704125595 Knin Srpski Radio Krajina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 14 Apr 95

[Report by Dragana Borojevic]

[FBIS Translated Text] Banija again did not have a peaceful night. In the wider Sunja region, last night about 1915 [1715 GMT], Croatian ustashas opened fire from small arms at the positions of the RSK [republic of Serb Krajina] Army 39th Corps.

Since the signing of the Zagreb Agreement, on several occasions, members of the Croatian Army have attempted to provoke a serious armed conflict on this part of the Serb defense line. [passage indistinct] to last night's ustasha provocations, members of the Banija Corps, in keeping with the signed cease-fire agreement, did not respond.

There was no peace along separation lines with the forces of the 5th Corps of the so-called Bosnia-Herzegovina Army either, where Atif Dudakovic's Muslim extremists' small-arms provocations have been reported in the past couple of days. Last night, at about 2000, members of Alija's 5th Corps fired dozens of rifle-propelled grenades at the Serb defense lines on this part of the Suva Medja front. The Serb soldiers responded fiercely to the provocation of the Islamic fanatics, after which peace was restored on this part of the Krajina front.

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Assembly Chairman Andov Claims PDP 'Maturing'

AU1804110395 Skopje VECER in Macedonian 15-16 Apr 95 pp 4-5

[Interview with Assembly Chairman Stojan Andov by Vera V. Adzigogova and Valentina Velevska; place and date not given: "Macedonia Shifts to the Right"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [VECER] Mr. Andov, you are again chairman, in the second mandate of the multiparty Assembly. There was a classical opposition in the previous one, but this is no longer the case. How can this situation be overcome?

[Andov] Normally, it is better if there is a parliamentary opposition. This is our basic solution in the system. However, we cannot blame ourselves for the absence of parliamentary opposition, because the opposition that was, and should be there, refused to be an opposition. It would run for election only if it could take power—refusing to be opposition. It did not accept the role of being the opposition. I think this is an element of immaturity in our democratic development. The political forces that cannot come to power cannot understand that it is equally important to participate in the building of power through parliamentary opposition. There have been cases throughout history of parliamentary democracies in which there has been no opposition, or one of no significance. This is not a unique or new situation in multiparty parliamentary systems.

[VECER] However, this is not a normal situation, is it?

[Andov] It is not standard or characteristic. Our fundamental aim in the multiparty system is to have more parties in parliament and more communication between those in power and the opposition, as is the case the world over. Nevertheless, throughout the world, at times this is not the case, and this is the situation in our country now. There is nothing to be afraid of and we do not want to transform it into a system.

[VECER] What effect does the absence of an opposition have on the quality of laws?

[Andov] As far as the quality of the decisions that the Assembly adopts is concerned, we should say that this is now a very important period in which many important decisions will have to be made. They require as broad a verification as possible. Besides asking for a general verification of foreign expertise, before a project is passed to parliament, some ministers have started to consult with certain opposition parties that are not in parliament but were of importance in the elections. I consider this cooperation valuable for the system. Regardless of the explanations and accusations put forth by certain opposition leaders, it speaks of their [these ministers'] responsibility for the state.

[VECER] A large number of delegates have already said from the Assembly floor that the Assembly is becoming more pragmatic; that the dynamics are right, but that they are frequently there just in order to raise hands in favor of the government's solutions. Is this judgment accurate?

[Andov] I think this is a temporary impression. Even if it has become practice, it is still only temporary. There are things that need time before people can understand them better. There are views among the public that are the opposite of what you just mentioned. For instance, some claim that hands are simply raised, while others complain that there are too many amendments. In the past period the Assembly was active in three areas. One was associated with the reforms. It was based on discussions with the world's financial institutions and had a time limit. Pragmatism was essential. The Assembly could have rejected it, of course, but it was contained in the reform program and in general terms, that would have meant the voters had been cheated.

The second area was a number of ratifications of agreements with various countries. Pragmatism is equally necessary here, because these agreements had already been negotiated. if I may say so, the only problem more sensitive, that received a normal basic treatment, were the laws on internal affairs. This shows that the Assembly is extremely careful and that it makes every effort to arrive at a better text, and its role here was very productive.

Isolated Cases

[VECER] Some analysts and political scientists think that the parliament is becoming too dominant over the government. There are too many solutions that are accepted without feedback from the parliament.

[Andov] Of course there is feedback. Here, I mentioned the example of the Law on Internal Affairs, where there were real changes. However, let me tell you that if certain huge projects are not accepted it does not mean that the government is mistrusted. We have a government that is, first of all, backed by the Alliance for Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM], and the government is in coalition with the PDP [Party for Democratic Prosperity], and therefore sometimes there is and other times there isn't a majority on the key questions.

[VECER] Nevertheless, there have been no amendments or remarks in this parliament, except on the police laws, the pension law, and the law on trading associations.

[Andov] I explained to you that we have not adopted more important laws. It is still very early.

[VECER] Is there not a danger for a government that has a large majority to become too confident and forget about its real responsibilities?

[Andov] Theoretically, this is possible. Normally, it is not a good situation. This has happened in other parliamentary states as well. However, if the political forces

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that support such a government are not critical at the appropriate time, the consequences will be felt at the very next elections unless the political grouping that backs the government is not dissociated before that. [sentence as published]

[VECER] In your opinion, are there no indications of this?

[Andov] We see no such indications. We cannot say that the government has "lost its mind" and is doing the job of the parliament. There is such a feeling among the public, especially among certain journalists, but there are no such feelings among the politicians who make the judgments. You can always find an example to show it, but you should always look at the complete situation. Isolated cases indicate hasty—and, in my opinion, mistaken—conclusions.

[VECER] Speaking of the efficiency of the Assembly, there is an interesting moment: he Constitutional Court presented some information according to which there are about 30 bills—either of the government or the parliament—that are contrary to the Constitution.

[Andov] This is, first of all, a problem of the government, but also of the parliament and of the state.

[VECER] Nevertheless, this is quite a large figure.

[Andov] I want to say that all our institutions established by the Constitution are in an embryonic phase. This period is providing us with examples, first of all in relation to the Constitution. We know that the Constitution is conceptually all right, but in the technical sense there are some ambiguities. Some of them would be acceptable if all spheres of life functioned perfectly. One such example is the length of prison sentences, but there are others as well. In my opinion, the Constitutional Court has a decisive role in building the legal system and solutions that have general authority. Sometimes the decisions of the Constitutional Court must be sources for further judiciary activity, such as law schools. Nevertheless, the Constitutional Court is certainly not a technical service that has to read what is written in the Constitution and look at it in a mechanical way. It is a part of our lives and attitudes, while constitutional decisions must also make a constructive contribution.

[VECER] We can say that there is a high level of party discipline in the Assembly. Despite different opinions in the discussions, the votes are either in favor of the government project or abstentions. Most of the laws can be passed with 41 votes, and there have been situations where there were 100 votes for one project despite the many previous remarks. Does this imply a contradiction, very strong party discipline, or the domination of the government?

[Andov] It does not imply any of these. Party discipline, as you see it, is nothing but normal parliamentary democracy. The delegates have been elected from one list of one party with the aim of having them vote according to the party's platform, program, intentions, and orientation. Nonparty delegates cannot be expected to provide anything of substance to political life; and within the framework of the party, the most important projects must be voted upon with agreement within the party. Otherwise, where is the connection between the delegates and the parties' election declarations.

Key Questions

[VECER] We cannot avoid asking you about the liberal delegates. At the time when the Assembly was being constituted, they announced that they would take the role of a constructive opposition. They confirmed this during the election of the government, and other coalition parties viewed it as sitting on two stools in order to gain more points.

[Andov] Generally speaking, I cannot elucidate questions that are not in my area. I am the chairman of the Assembly and I certainly have a clear picture of certain matters in this field. However, I would like to say that we have started, and insist on maintaining, the idea of the Alliance for Macedonia. Actually, if we look carefully at this phase of the development of our state, we shall see that there are three or four groups of questions that require the approval of a large number of citizens.

We are facing an extremely difficult process of economic transformation. It is impossible to fulfill the task of transition in the economy with a small majority in the parliament or with an ad hoc coalition. We have and will continue to have extremely complex and difficult, and initially also painful, processes, and if we do not see that we need a strong political grouping with the broad support of the citizens—whether we claim to be in power or in the opposition in this or that democracy—we shall not endure the day-to-day blows to which such a process of economic transformation is exposed.

Another very important question is that of interethnic relations and that matter's influence on the internal stability of the state. Some might have illusions about the strength of this or that party, but in my opinion, the Alliance for Macedonia is perhaps the only political group that can take all necessary constitutional steps for lasting stability in interethnic relations. The country would be much weaker without the Alliance, or if the party members of the Alliance thought that they had to assume dominating positions and that they themselves should pass judgment on all questions.

The third issue indicating that this phase requires a strong political grouping is the establishment of relations with neighboring states. No political party, including the one in power, can complete this process by itself by simply mobilizing the others to accomplish the task. I have mentioned only three, but there are many other similar issues in the first phase—probably to last for the next 10 years—in the Republic of Macedonia's existence as an independent state. That is why I conclude that the

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Alliance for Macedonia is the political group and formula that must be defended if political stability is to be guaranteed in these troubled times.

Political Center

[VECER] Before and during the elections, the Alliance acted as a strong election coalition. After the elections, and when the Assembly was being constituted, each party of the Alliance acted as a group of delegates. The Liberals did not welcome this. However, that was what happened, and the Alliance is now no longer there.

[Andov] You may be right to some extent. We had different views. We are fully aware of the needs of the state, and we thought that the Alliance, which was so compact during the elections, should be affirmed more in practice, and keep all the promises it made. I think that the formula that we, as the Alliance, presented to the voters—and that obtained widespread support—should not be used only once. It must give the citizens hope that it is the true formula, and perhaps that is the reason that you found it strange when the Liberals insisted on the Alliance. It was due to the needs of the state. We recognize and accept the reality that the Alliance consists of parties with their own programs, but we also think that in relation to these key questions, whether these parties like it or not, there must be wide-ranging cooperation, mutual communication, and agreement.

[VECER] You will certainly agree that in relation to the "Hard Rock" events [an incident at a discotheque] the Alliance was dealt a severe blow. Although there was an initiative of the Liberals, this affair was not explained. There have been other such events. The latest is the example of the economic delegation's traveling to Serbia. In a way, it demonstrated that the "love" between the SDSM [Social Democratic Alliance of Macedonia] and the LP [Liberal Party] was not there, no matter how hard they tried to show that it was.

[Andov] These are separate examples. However, it is not a question of love, but of the country's strategic interests. Of course, there are individual examples that might attract public attention—such as, for instance, the "Hard Rock" case, the election of the government and so on—but we must not forget that the parties make up the Alliance. Our party stated its view on the "Hard Rock" case and invited the others to do the same.

General assessments on cooperation cannot be made on the basis of a single case. On the other hand, we expressed our views on this case because we feared the implications not for the LP but for the Alliance. It was not a dispute with the SDSM. We do not want to reach the point of arguments and quarrels. We said what we were able to say and we know that the SDSM, like the LP, has an extremely important role in the reforms, in the process of creating stability in the country, and therefore we should not waste time on quarrels. These are street fights, and we should not stoop to that level. We should say what we think, but there is no need to wage active battles and destroy coalitions because of such issues. Otherwise we would not be politicians.

[VECER] While it is necessary to have a strong coalition for the sake of the state, don't you think that at a certain point there is a danger of the parties' merging? In parliamentary systems, the liberals and the social democrats are usually parties that oppose each other.

[Andov] That is not always the case. It changes. In Germany the coalition of Liberals and Social Democrats lasted for about 20 years. This is not a rule but depends on how the basic problems are solved, and on the real political force that has to be created to solve the problem. When the key question in Germany was the so-called Eastern Policy, the Liberals joined up with the Social Democrats because at that time, the Christian democrats were not sure whether Germany should be opened up or not. Nevertheless, the economic opening up of Germany then brought the solutions that happened in the 1990s. At that time it was a strategic action, and that is exactly the case with us now: We are making decisions on the basis not of previous dogmas but of the tasks that we have in the present historical development. On the other hand, I can tell you that we do not have a party of the real right in Macedonia. We may have nationalist and populist parties, but we do not have any party with a right-wing platform. I think that because of our political history the term "right" still has a pejorative connotation.

[VECER] But should that not be so?

[Andov] Well, it should not, of course. I must tell you that actually the whole of Macedonia is shifting to the right. The changes consist in the intensification of privatization and the definitions of state interests in the Constitution. It may seem conservative with miscellaneous political actions, but in essence this is what the process is. A high SDSM official now says that the party has moved closer to center left. As is normal, the times and the situation took them there. We now represnet that political center, and we think that the character of the center is now more to the right than it was—let us say—two years ago.

A Time of Maturing

[VECER] Let us go back to the Assembly. An interesting situation has arisen regarding the PDP as a coalition partner. They are trying to impose conditions for their work. How can the Assembly bypass this trend? How can that party's announcement that it is abandoning the institutions of the system be avoided?

[Andov] I think that the parties representing the ethnic minorities in Macedonia are faced with strategic decisions about their relationship with the Macedonian state. Each of them must realize that, regardless of the national origin of their members, these parties are Macedonian parties, parties of the Republic of Macedonia working within the framework of the Constitution. They can

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propose changes to the Constitution, but only in accordance with the procedure provided by the Constitution itself. Just before and during the elections, the PDP was faced with the dilemma of whether to stick to the constitution and its declared strategic determination to cooperate and remain within the institutions of the system, or to give in to pressure from Albanian nationalists and to compete with them. I think the PDP is in the process of overcoming this dilemma. They are in parliament now, and although it is up to them, I believe that they do not have a chance of competing with the extremists on this issue. Their only chance is to persist in their struggle for a constitutional concept. This is exactly where we should all demonstrate that the process of integration is in our own interest. We must not take integration as the application of national keys. With integration, and bearing in mind that the Macedonian people constitute two thirds of the population, we can create mutual trust. I believe that the dilemma imposed by the furious acts of the Albanian politicians and nationalist extremists—including the events in Recica [attempt to open an Albanian university], along with their presenting their views to various important foreign instances—has reached a peak, and I think that now the PDP, as well as the other politicians of Albanian origin, are gradually maturing. The illusions that there is Kosovo and we shall join it, and later we shall join Albania, and so on, have been dispelled.

[VECER] Nevertheless, there are also the initiatives for the use of minority languages in the Assembly and for consensus in decisionmaking.

[Andov] There can be many initiatives, but they will be all dealt with within the constitutional framework. As far as the use of languages in the Assembly is concerned, that has been settled in the Constitution.

[VECER] We ask this because the PDP made its participation in the Assembly conditional on the use of their language in the Assembly.

[Andov] I would prefer not to remember this statement of theirs. Perhaps they themselves would prefer it to be forgotten.

[VECER] Do you say this in the context of their maturing?

[Andov] Certainly. Let us give them an opportunity of finding the truth in a more convenient way.

[VECER] The economic reforms are the basic strategic goal of our state. Nevertheless, we know that the economic reforms may fail if they are not accompanied by political reforms. In your opinion, what is the relationship between economic and political reforms at this time?

[Andov] Actually, economic reforms are inseparable from political reforms. Our current political reforms should provide the individual with a civil status, the status of a citizen in a market economy. The individual must have all the rights and freedoms of a citizen in order to become an owner, a businessman, and realize his rights. Restriction of the citizens should be provided for in the systems of the government and the courts. However, I cannot give a general assessment on the level of the political reforms. It is not easy to do that yet. I think there has been a lot of progress, but we have not yet created all the conditions necessary for an accurate assessment.

[VECER] There are continual talks about forthcoming changes in the Constitution. There are some initiatives in the Council of Interethnic Relations, and some decisions have been adopted. What is your opinion on this, as Assembly chairman and president of the Constitutional Commission?

[Andov] I think that what the Constitution lacks is not of a strategic character. It has dealt with all the basic matters well. There is a need for technical amendments, but only when conditions for this are created. There are competent proposers and each of them should assess the right time. The Constitution should not be treated like any other law that can be changed whenever it pleases us. However, we must not forget that there are some technical shortcomings.

Albanian Ministry Protest Over Border Shooting

AU1704195595 Skopje MIC in English 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The media in Albania did not report the news yesterday about the incident that took place on the Albanian border two days ago, near Debar, 700 meters inside Macedonian territory, when an Albanian citizen was killed while attempting to illegally enter the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM], with a group of Albanians.

Today's RILINDIJA DEMOKRATIKE, organ of the ruling Democratic Party of Albania, only conveys the brief information of AFP, which reports parts of the announcement of the Macedonian Interior Ministry, without any editorial comments. This news is also conveyed by a couple of independent newspapers.

Today, the Albanian Interior Ministry came out with an announcement concerning the incident from two days ago. The announcement says that on April 14, this year, at 2018 hours, near Debar, the Macedonian authorities shot and killed an Albanian citizen, 19-year-old Bashkim Mazlam Tavchiu. It is emphasized that the experts who went to the scene of the incident, concluded that the deceased had crossed the border for trading reasons, which could be seen by the goods he carried with him. The Albanian Interior Ministry claims that Tavchiu became a target of the Macedonian forces immediately after crossing the border, following which he was killed. The expert commission of the Republic of Albania came to the realization that the killing was not accidental. On the occasion of this incident, the Albanian Interior

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Ministry sent a protest condemning, as it is stated, this act of murder by the Macedonian authorities, stressing that such events irritate the people, which could, as it is stated at the end of the announcement, trigger even greater incidents.

Authorities Prevent Smuggling of Oil Equipment

AU1704194095 Skopje MIC in English 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Macedonian Foreign Ministry is announcing that the workers of the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] uncovered an organized attempt during March 1995 for violation of the sanctions determined with the appropriate resolutions of the Security Council of the United Nations, with the purpose of transiting parts of installations for oil-drilling equipment through Macedonia, toward FR Yugoslavia. According to results of the detailed investigation conducted by Macedonian authorities, and as part of the activities of the international organs in charge of controlling the implementation of the sanctions, it was concluded that heading toward the Republic of Macedonia, the contingent had already passed through a couple of countries, with frequent changes of the documentation.

The investigation concluded that this attempt also included several firms from our country, concerning which, in the interest of the investigation, the details will be released additionally. These days, the equipment arrived from the Republic of Macedonia with trucks belonging to a neighboring country. The goods were detained and placed under the supervision of the Customs Administration of the Republic of Macedonia.

During April 1995, the Customs Administration of Macedonia did not allow several dispatches to enter from the Republic of Bulgaria, which were determined to be a part of this equipment.

The authorities are continuing the investigation in order to uncover all elements connected with this attempt. The investigation includes controls of the cargo documents for the goods and the correspondence and financial transactions. The results of the investigation will be announced to the international organs, in charge of implementing the sanctions of the Security Council.

The fact that exactly our organs discovered and stopped this transport offers the best proof that the Republic of Macedonia is strictly implementing the sanctions imposed by the international community. The high level of cooperation with the international organs will continue also in the future, with the purpose of realizing the common goals, to implement the sanctions of the Security Council with coordinated action.

Trade Deficit With Slovenia: $86.7 Million

AU1704203195 Skopje MIC in English 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beside Germany, Bulgaria and Italy, Slovenia is also among the first countries with which Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM] has realized the biggest trade exchange. According to the information of the mixed Macedonian-Slovenian Chamber of Commerce, the overall exchange between the two countries in 1994 was $229.3 million. In the exchange, the Macedonian side has noted a trade deficit of $86.7 million, which, in comparison with 1993, is a growth of 2.7 percent.

It is believed that the Macedonian side has an unfavorable exchange in terms of the structure. Macedonia imported goods from Slovenia from the general consumption, processing from wood, paper, insecticides, cosmetics, and other goods, which are also manufactured in Macedonia.

According to the statement of the secretary of the mixed Macedonian-Slovenian Chamber, Aco Spasovski, compensation participates with 44.7 percent in the export of the Macedonian companies, and 17.7 percent in the imports, which means that the Macedonian businessmen pay more in cash, in comparison with the Slovenian businessmen.

A possible solution to the deficit could be the possibility for greater inclusion of the Macedonian companies in the broad fund of investments which are announced by the Slovenian Government, and which apply to the construction of a freeway and several hydro-electric power plants. Certainly, the mutual investments should not be excluded here, which serve in supplementing the Macedonian production programs, which will enable better joint appearances in third countries.

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Ministry Accuses Ex-Ministers of Arms Smuggling

LD1504160995 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1533 GMT 15 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ljubljana, Apr. 15 (TANJUG)—Slovenia's Interior Ministry Saturday accused of arms smuggling the former Slovenian defense minister and interior minister, Janez Jansa and Igor Bavcar, respectively, and four other persons, TANJUG learned.

Sources close to the Slovenian Interior Ministry told TANJUG among the suspects were also Defense Ministry advisor Ludvig Zvonar, government advisor at the Interior Ministry Franc Kosi and two foreign nationals, of which one is an arms dealer, Nicholas Alexander Oman.

Criminal charges were brought on by the prosecution in the Adriatic port town of Koper, where the criminal act originated.

The suspects transferred an arms shipment containing 13,000 Kalashnikov assault rifles, a larger number Makarov pistols and heavy machine guns worth about 9 million dollars from the Kopar port to Ljubljana's Brnik airport.

Most of these smuggled arms ended up in Croatia, but it was said there was grounded suspicion that individuals, too, personally profited from the illicit arms trade.

A total of 120 tonnes of arms claimed to be humanitarian aid and intended for Bosnian Muslims was uncovered at Slovenia's Maribor airport last July.

At the time, Slovenian President Milan Kucan and the then defense minister, Janez Jansa, exchanged recriminations over involvement in arms smuggling to Bosnia and Croatia.

President Kucan acknowledged that in October 1994 Slovenia actively supplied weapons to the war-affected former Yugoslav Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, despite a valid arms embargo for the entire territory of former Yugoslavia.

Official Views Defense Ministry Reorganization

AU1704125195 Ljubljana SLOVENSKA VOJSKA in Slovene 3 Mar 95 pp 5-6

[Interview with Defense Ministry State Secretary Boris Znidaric by Bojan Kuntaric; place and date not given: "Conformity With New Legislation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days ago, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia approved the new systematization of workplaces in the Defense Ministry. We asked Boris Znidaric, state secretary in the Defense Ministry, what this meant for the Ministry as such and for its employees. First, we asked him why was the new systematization of jobs necessary at all?

[Znidaric] The Defense Ministry speaks of a systematization of jobs in the civilian segment of the administration and formation in its military segment. The new systematization and also the new formation that are underway reflect on the new circumstances in the Slovene state and, of course, in our ministry. After we became independent, the Ministry signed numerous bilateral agreements with foreign defense ministries, various associations, and other partners. The systematization is also a result of international obligations undertaken by Slovenia. The organization of the Ministry and the Slovene Army had to be adjusted to all the above factors and the organization also had to be brought in conformity with the new legislation pertaining to defense and rescue.

[Kuntaric] What are the essential changes brought about by the new systematization?

[Znidaric] The Defense Ministry now has four state secretaries. The fourth state secretary will take care of protection and rescue. Generally speaking, the number of the Ministry's internal organizational units has changed, too, that is, we have gained additional administrations. These are: the Administration for Construction, Housing, and General Affairs; the Legal Unit; and the Medical Unit. The new systematization also envisages some terminology changes in the organization of units that already exist. Thus, the Defense Ministry's security organ is now called the Intelligence-Security Unit, the hitherto Cadre Unit became organizationally stronger, more numerous, and renamed itself the Administration for Organization and Cadre. The Defense Ministry's Education Center has been renamed the Center of Military Schools. The contents of its work and its organizational scheme have also been changed to a degree. In conformity with the altered legislation, the highest office of the Slovene Army and the Republican Territorial Defense Headquarters renamed itself the General Staff of the Slovene Army. The former Republican Inspectorate for Fire Safety has been renamed the Inspectorate of the Republic of Slovenia for Protection From Natural and Other Disasters. The next change is in the new regional administrations. Instead of the present seven, we now have 13. The new administrations are located in Trbovlje, Krsko, Slovenj Gradec, Koper, Ptuj, and Murska Sobota.

[Kuntaric] Many people in the Defense Ministry have been employed to do one thing, however, they are doing something completely different. Will this change now?

[Znidaric] With the new systematization, we created new bases for the hire of performers of individual tasks. It is known that, so far, certain employees have had contracts for entirely different duties than those they actually performed. In the new organizational scheme, we consistently named such posts after the duties that the employees will actually perform.

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[Kuntaric] Can you explain in more detail the changes in the organization of the Ministry's individual offices? Perhaps you could start with the changes in the minister's cabinet?

[Znidaric] The minister's cabinet envisages a post of the secretary general as the Ministry's internal director who will be in charge of the coordination and steering of purely service activities. We strengthened the department for liaison with the public and for international cooperation. We systematized anew the jobs of the military attaches. The old systematization only envisaged one such post. The requirements of the international exchange of military experts are growing and several officers will assume these posts this year already. According to the new systematization, the editorial board of SLOVENSKA VOJSKA is also a part of the cabinet.

[Kuntaric] What are the changes in other offices of the ministry?

[Znidaric] We have crippled the Logistics Administration to a degree by separating a Department for Construction and Maintenance of Apartments from it, which became an autonomous administration. We joined the related section of the Administration for General Affairs to it. To the Logistics Administration, we added a special purpose production plant, which manufactures military equipment and arms.

The Intelligence-Security Unit has been adjusted to the new circumstances and the demanding project of providing security to the unit commands and offices of the Defense Ministry. There are no significant changes in the Administration for Civilian Defense and the Administration for Telecommunications. There are some changes in the Information Unit, which will be strengthened in terms of cadre and organization. This is necessary because of the ongoing project of the Ministry's automation and to ensure care for the development of the information system for the requirements of the Slovene Army and the civilian segment of the Ministry, i.e. regional administrations and branches. The Administration for Organization and Cadres will gain a more prominent role. A year ago, it separated itself from the Administration for General Affairs, a department of which it was, and we established that the demands and expectations of this administration are very large. All incoming and outgoing traffic from the Ministry goes though this administration. The planning of the career tracks of individuals is also one of the tasks of this administration. In the final report for 1994, we wrote that preventive health care and medical care for our workers should be strengthened, as well the efforts to provide the Defense Ministry's employees with organized holiday facilities. The Administration for Housing and Construction Affairs will deal with landscape planning, investment policy, maintenance of the present housing fund, and the Ministry's infrastructure. It will be in charge of the investment policy in the construction of functional facilities for the requirements of the defense and protection. The Administration for Development has been strengthen in terms of numbers and tasks, and to ensure a more direct exchange of expert knowledge and findings we also incorporated the Center for Strategic Studies in it. The Administration for Military Affairs will not undergo any significant changes. Regarding the Center of Military Schools it must be added that we defined the authorities and functions of the center and the General Staff, that is, the Center of Military Schools and the Slovene Army training center with a doctrinaire document; we agreed that education and basic training for the profession should fall within the responsibility of the Center of Military Schools, while training and operative, that is, secondary education should fall within the responsibility of the Slovene Army training center. We placed a great emphasis on the psychology unit that will be formed within the Center of Military Schools. We devoted great attention to the genetic growth and branching of the School for Noncommissioned Officers, the School for Officers, and the School for Commanders and Staff Officers. It can be deduced from this that the emphasis will be placed on these three schools and some other programs that will run within the Center of Military Schools. A sort of library, that is, a media archive will be located there, which will supply other components of the Defense Ministry. The Legal Unit has been formed as a new administration within the Ministry and will consist of three sections: the Section for System Legislation, the Section for Civilian, Legal, and Cadre Affairs, and the Section for International Law. Bearing in mind the obligations that the state and the Defense Ministry undertook toward foreign partners, such a section is necessary. The Medical Unit will be a very important unit in the Ministry. Namely, we are developing a medical center in Sentvid, and throughout Slovenia we have about 20 Slovene Army medical centers. I believe I do not need to expound on how important this service is in light of the number of soldiers doing their military service and the demands to develop this segment of the Army.

[Kuntaric] The new systematization also envisages an increase in the number of regional defense administrations. Why was their number increased?

[Znidaric] Following the reorganization of the state administration at the local level, the defense administrations gained in importance and for this reason we increased their number. Their fundamental task will be to coordinate and harmonize the work of the branches, and some of their duties will also involve administrative decisionmaking. According to the new systematization, we have 13 administrations parallel to 58 defense branches on the ground, which as a matter of rule remained in the headquarters of the former municipal defense administrations.

[Kuntaric] What will happen to the people who, with the reform of the local organization, became the employees of the Defense Ministry?

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[Znidaric] As of the new year, we took on 666 employees and our concern is to harmonize this with the new systematization and the new regulations about systematization of workplaces within the Defense Ministry, which came into effect on 15 February 1995, the date that the government cadre unit gave its consensus. This means that the period of harmonization of the present situation with the new systematization is three months, however, I hope that we will be in conformity with these regulations by 1 April.

[Kuntaric] Does the new systematization also create new jobs in the Defense Ministry?

[Znidaric] The Defense Ministry needs new people, primarily skilled employees. The new systematization has created a possibility for employing 298 new workers. However, the problems lies elsewhere. In light of the current economic situation and budget debates, the position of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia is very clear. Until further notice, there will be no new hiring in the Defense Ministry.

[Kuntaric] It there a chance that any of the employees who arrived in the Defense Ministry following the reform of the local self-rule would become jobless?

[Znidaric] At the end of last week the beginning of this week, we have held very intensive coordination talks with the commanders of regional administrations and heads of branches. We concluded that some branches employed too many workers, while the administrations that are being formed anew are without people, so to speak. Thus, we must reassign the surplus workers and facilitate the normal work and functioning of these officers. Some of those who became our employees with 1 January have already left. Some of them are still to go from the Defense Ministry. We must know that new municipalities legally have the obligation to look after the civilian defense, and the administrative units to look after the defense preparations of other services. This means that we will search for employees in these spheres among the people who already know this work and are capable of doing it well. It is important for us in the Ministry that the matters are organized well from the Ministry, administrations, and branches down to municipalities, local communities and, of course, economic and other entities in a given area. I hope that we will be able to reassign the majority of people who will stay, although we are facing big problems because many of them do not have the necessary qualifications. The government is well aware of this, and for this reason we will try to find suitable workplaces for them in cooperation with the government. We have reduced some of the job requirements so that we will be able to assign these people to them. The coordination on the ground has also shown that nearly everywhere there will be cases that will be resolved with difficulty. I expect that, in a month, we will know the exact number of these people and what to do with them.

[Kuntaric] Which department of the Defense Ministry will be the busiest in the near future?

[Znidaric] After the coordination, in which, beside the commanders of the regional administrations and heads of branches, the director of the Administration for Organization and Cadre is also taking place, we will enter a phase of very intense activity in this administration. All employees will have to be issued with new contracts, perhaps even two. One of them will stipulate that one is an employee of the Defense Ministry and the other will assign one to a concrete workplace and will, of course, be in conformity with the new systematization. You can imagine how much work is in store for this administration of the Ministry. When the formation of the Slovene Army commands and units is adopted, the process will have to be repeated for the military segment of the Ministry. I must admit that I do not envy them at all.

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Federal

Paper Alleges U.S. Supplying Arms to Muslims

BR1804060395 Milan IL GIORNALE in Italian 14 Apr 95 p 14

[Article by Andrea Nativi: "Bosnia: This Is How The United States Is Arming The Muslims"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A transport aircraft approaches in the dark, only a row of dim lights marks the secondary runway. The plane lands quickly, its cargo is unloaded in a hurry, the plane waits with its engines turning, ready to take off again. Looking tense, security personnel ensures that no indiscreet eyes are watching the scene. The airport may be that of Tuzla, Zenica, or Visoko—as regards the mysterious cargo, there is little room for doubt: weapons, weapons for the B-H [Bosnia-Herzegovina], the Bosniam Muslim Army. Indications of such secret flights have been reaching us from Bosnia for some months now. The UN command and NATO have denied their existence indignantly, there is no tangible proof, but by now a number of different sources are regularly confirming the leaked information.

This traffic has been going on all through the winter, monitored by NATO's radar aircraft, and it has been made possible by something more than mere benevolence on the part of the United States. The Muslim-Croatian alliance enjoys the financial, political, and military suppport of many friends, and the United States is also contributing, and not just financially. A few days ago Major General John Sewall was appointed to head a team to help integrate the Croatian and Mulsim military forces, thus continuing the work started by another authoritative retired officer, namely, Gen. Galvin, who over the past few months supervised the formation of the first embryonic units of the Bosnian Army. However, advisers and instructors are not enough. That is why transport and charter aircraft land regularly in Zagreb, whereas in Bosnia the secret flights look like missions carried out in perfect Air America style reminiscent of Vietnam.

The enormous availability of former Soviet military equipment makes it easier to camouflage these operations. Thus weapons from the former GDR, Poland, Czechoslovakia, etc. suddenly appear as if by magic. There is no lack, however, of sophisticated Western weaponry, such as Milen antitank missiles or Stinger AA missiles. Muslim countries are also providing concrete help, but the equipment which arrives in Zagreb only reaches the Muslims after payment of a commission in kind. Therefore direct delivery is better. Weapons are not only transported by air but also overland, whereas forcing the NATO-WEU [Western European Union] naval blockade is a more difficult task. The Croatian harbors of Ploce and Krk Island are nevertheless very busy. On the island the CIA has set up a base from which Predator drone spy planes take off. It is not known whether the information they gather is being made available to the Croatians and Muslims. This traffic is beginning to have some impact on the balance of forces in the field.

Croatia has obtained all sorts of weapons: Hind combat helicopters, T-72 tanks, 12mm self-propelled guns, MiG-21 fighters, and even SA-10 missile launching pads which have been deployed to protect the capital. As regards arms and ammunition, however, the war in former Yugoslavia is essentially self-supplied. The Serbs and Croats, and to some extent the Mulsims too, are tapping the enormous stockpiles built up in the times of the Federal state of Yugoslavia, and they also have some independent industrial capacity. In addition, there is a sort of cascade effect: As more modern weapons systems become available, the regular armies transfer less sophisticated weapons to the militias. An underground influx of arms is also helping Serbia, which however has fewer friends. On the other hand, the Serbs have a stronger military industrial structure, and better equipped militias and regular army. Direct and covert military aid to the Muslims is not all. In the U.S. Congress, some deputies insist that the arms embargo on Muslims and Croats should be lifted, especially if the cease-fire is not extended beyond the 30 April official limit. The Clinton administration is trying to dampen this eagerness, pointing to the costs involved. Ambassador Holbrooke, speaking before Congress, explained that, quite apart from any political consequences, U.S. military aid would cost at least $1 billion. It is now hoped that Congress will not force the administration's hand. Pouring U.S. weapons into the former Yugoslavia is certainly not the best way to put an end to the conflict, among other reasons because those helping the Serbs would not just stand by and do nothing about it.

Serbia

Djindjic Offers New 'Proposal' for Bosnia

AU1804103395 Belgrade NASA BORBA (supplement) in Serbo-Croatian 15-16 Apr 95 p 5

[Interview with DS President Zoran Djindjic by Dragan Banjac; place and date not given: "We Are Not Ramming It Down Pale's and Knin's Throats"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Along ethnic seams, a political party must not close its eyes to reality and seek salvation in something general, such as a call for tolerance, the precedence of civic over national ideas, or anything else that is highly acceptable and sounds nice, but that is not applicable in everyday conditions. In all this, I see us (DS) [Democratic Party] as firemen who are extinguishing a fire and, in doing so, run the risk of damaging the furniture and carpets with the water that we are using to extinguish the fire. This was the answer given by DS President Zoran Djindjic at the beginning of his interview for NASA BORBA, in reply to a remark that his party had recently been criticized for sailing into nationalist waters. [passage omitted]

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[Banjac] Your ties with Pale have surprised many?

[Djindjic] We are in an unpleasant situation of having to deal with a political crisis and the war without having participated in the creation of their causes. The war will not end until at least the minimum of the main protagonists' demands have been met. The minimum demands of the Serbs in the RS [Srpska republic] is their sovereignty. After all, we are talking about a conflict involving a section of our people, and being impartial would be extremely hypocritical. However, if they were to say: We want to live in a civic Bosnia, we would open a bottle of champagne and no one would be happier. But one must not forget that no one is asking us anything, and that we are not ramming anything down anyone's throat, be it Pale's and Knin's.

[Banjac] Nevertheless, you recently visited Pale, and there is much talk about a DS proposal. Can you explain this?

[Djindjic] The essence of our proposal lies in the order of steps. So far, more attention has been devoted to and energy spent on the parts of the proposal that do not suit the Serbs. We are proposing the opposite. Acceptable elements should be taken out and put together. This means putting together everything that does not endanger the minimum that is acceptable. We are talking about two key elements, first, the sovereignty of the Srpska republic, in line with the international community's condition that the form of a joint state be preserved. We think that this can be solved through a loose confederation. This would meet all of the conditions of the RS and the international community set by the Contact Group. The other key element is the division of the territory, according to the half-half principle (or a percent here or there)—which has already been accepted by the RS assembly when it endorsed the Owen-Stoltenberg plan and offered by the Contact Group again—provided the RS has the right to take part in the decision on the quality of the territory. If they are returning parts of the territory and making concessions, then they should at least be allowed to decide which territories they should retain. If this were accomplished, peace would come about immediately. They (the RS leadership) have very little trust in international mediators and guarantees. As regards our proposal, I cannot say that they were overjoyed and that they accepted it, but they did promise that they would consider it seriously.

[Banjac] What does the world, the big powers, think?

[Djindjic] As far as I know, there are also dilemmas in the United States regarding the creation of a pure Muslim state in the Balkans, a state that would very quickly become a branch office of Saudi Arabia and Turkey. [passage omitted]

[Banjac] Some opposition leaders are talking frequently about changes in the policy of President Slobodan Milosevic. What do you think?

[Djindjic] He has become more cooperative. For some centers in the West, he is the cheapest option. He has so many "tails" that he is forced to make concessions, and they are saying that openly. They think that he has softened, that they should play on him, praise him, stress his role. His reintegration into the international scene is illusory. He is the only president who has visited only Greece, perhaps Romania and Bulgaria. It is an illusion when Kozyrev or the cochairmen say that he is an "unavoidable factor." [passage omitted]

[Banjac] According to you estimate, the authorities will "oust" themselves. When?

[Djindjic] I expect major changes this year, in the fifth or sixth month. I expect financial problems connected with the dinar and the dinar's instability. Fall and winter will bring total instability. We will win at city, municipal, and federal elections in 1996 at the latest. We will appear at the elections together with the Montenegrins and the authorities will be faced with the decision to either offer radical reforms, or to suspend the parliament. [passage omitted]

[Banjac] Do you believe in any kind of a new community in this region?

[Djindjic] No. Economic cooperation, transportations links, the need to preserve the ecological environment in the Balkans, yes, but a political community is no longer possible in this region. I do not believe that this could happen in the next 10 years, and after that it would be impossible.

Seselj, Followers Cross Drina, Hold Rally

AU1704194195 Belgrade NASA BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 15-16 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by M. Mikuljanac: "Seselj: We Crossed Not a Border but a Bridge on the Drina River"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Loznica—"We did not cross a border, we simply crossed the bridge over the Drina River which links Serbian brethren on both banks. This will never be a border between Serbs," Vojislav Seselj, leader of the Serbian Radical Party [SRS] said after several thousand of his followers from the Republic of Serbia crossed the pedestrian bridge into the Srpska republic.

Several hundred fully equipped special troops—wearing flak jackets and wielding machine guns—were deployed at the Loznica side of the bridge, but they did not stop the procession of Radicals from crossing into the Srpska republic. The police chief first banned cameras, then asked everyone to show their identity cards before crossing the bridge, but in the end nothing came of these orders although the Radicals agreed to them, since the mass of people seemingly flew over the bridge.

Several hundred meters deep into Srpska republic territory Vojislav Seselj delivered yet another short speech to

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his supporters and said that "when such a large group of like-minded people rally together, there is no need for any violence to achieve the desired objectives." Moreover, Seselj also said that he would soon call on all those dissatisfied with Milosevic's regime to attend a big rally in Belgrade, which was hailed with cheers, applause, and approval. [passage omitted]

Jovanovic, Russian Communist Delegation Talk

LD1704210695 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2048 GMT 17 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, April 17 (TANJUG)—The leaderships of Serbia and Yugoslavia are committed to lasting peace as the highest national interest, as evident from their support of the plan for Bosnia proposed by the five-state Contact Group, a Serbian parliament official said Monday.

Chairman of the Serbian parliament's Foreign Policy Committee Slobodan Jovanovic was speaking in a meeting with a delegation of the Parliamentary Club of the Russian Communist Party, headed by Leonid Petrovskiy. Jovanovic said that the positive attitude and objective approach of Russia and its parliament to the crisis in the former Yugoslavia were helping find a solution.

Jovanovic and Petrovskiy said that the Contact Group's plan for Bosnia was a realistic platform on which to base the continuation of the peace process and stable peace.

The Russian delegation was received also by deputy to the Yugoslav Parliament Ivica Dacic. Speaking on behalf of the Parliamentary Club of the Socialist Party of Serbia, Dacic expressed satisfaction with the decision of the Russian State Duma (lower house) on lifting of sanctions against the Yugoslav Federation of Serbia and Montenegro.

Petrovskiy said that the Russian Communist Party had been against the sanctions from the start. He said that the State Duma was unanimous on the positions that common efforts should be made in international fora to lift the sanctions speedily and completely and make reparations for the damage that the unjust measure had caused.

Commentary: Turkey Planning 'Third Balkan War'

AU1704172995 Belgrade VECERNJE NOVOSTI in Serbo-Croatian 14 Apr 95 p 2

[Commentary by M. Antic: "They Are Dreaming of a New War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkish Defense Minister Mehmet Golhan and Albanian Defense Minister Safet Zhulali in Tirana yesterday signed a memorandum on friendship and military cooperation. They agreed that Turkey would support the training and equipping of the Albanian Army. It was also agreed that joint military maneuvers would be held in Albania in August and September of this year.

Albanian President Sali Berisha particularly hailed the agreement and thanked Turkey "for its multifold help." Whether by chance or otherwise, Ibrahim Rugova, the leader of the Kosmet ethnic Albanians, was in Tirana when the agreement was signed. Although the Albanian media and the ethnic Albanian media in Kosmet did not directly connect Rugova with this "case," they nevertheless gave him the same type of publicity, thus making it clear that he was around as well.

Turkey's desire to dominate the Balkans militarily is nothing new. The fact that Albania has agreed to provide the impetus for this is also nothing new, since in the past 50 years it has changed some five to six military sponsors, just so that it could "be someone" in the Balkans.

Military commentators have already noticed that Albania and Turkey have been drawn together by aspirations toward certain territories in Greece, Macedonia [The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia—FYROM], and Yugoslavia. The ethnic Albanian newspapers claim that "someone must put a stop to the Orthodox axis Athens-Skopje-Belgrade." The same sources claim that a consolidation of anti-Orthodox forces must take place in the south of the Balkans. At the same time of course, there is constant mention of some new, third Balkan war, for which the scenario has already been announced.

Who desires such a turn of events is best illustrated by the maneuvers announced for August and September.

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